

The Relationship Between Early Maladaptive Schemas and Alexithymia with Emotional Divorce in Married Women

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph beginning “Marital relationships constitute one of the most fundamental interpersonal systems...”, emotional divorce is well defined, but the authors could strengthen this section by explicitly distinguishing emotional divorce from marital dissatisfaction and marital conflict, clarifying its unique theoretical status.

The sentence “emotional divorce is not merely a situational outcome of marital conflict but rather the result of complex interactions...” would benefit from a brief process-oriented explanation (e.g., how schemas translate into emotional disengagement over time).

The statement “Scores of 60 and above indicate high levels of alexithymia” should be accompanied by a brief justification of whether cut-offs were used analytically or merely descriptively.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

When discussing schema domains, the manuscript emphasizes disconnection and rejection. Please clarify why these domains are theoretically prioritized over others (e.g., hypervigilance), preferably by explicitly linking them to attachment theory.

The definition of alexithymia is accurate; however, the authors should clarify whether alexithymia is conceptualized here as a trait, a state, or a relational phenomenon, as this has implications for interpretation of correlational findings.

In the sentence “maladaptive schemas can predict alexithymia directly or indirectly...”, it would strengthen the manuscript to briefly indicate which schema domains are most strongly linked to alexithymia according to prior evidence.

The final paragraph clearly identifies gaps but would benefit from a more explicit statement of novelty, such as whether this study offers a new predictive hierarchy, cultural contribution, or integrative model.

In “Using convenience sampling, 232 participants were initially selected”, please justify the adequacy of this sample size by referencing power considerations or prior correlational research norms.

The manuscript does not clearly specify inclusion or exclusion criteria (e.g., duration of marriage, psychiatric diagnosis, ongoing therapy). This omission limits interpretability and should be addressed.

The description of the Young Schema Questionnaire includes multiple dates (1995, 1998, 2003). Please clarify which version was actually administered and ensure consistency in historical reporting.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.